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Docket No. 12014-0019



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

ANRAKU et al.

Serial No.: 10/626,621

Filed: July 25, 2003

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Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: Nicholson, E.

For: Threaded Joint for Steel Pipes

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

Commissioner of Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Further to Applicants' Amendment of June 2, 2005, the following arguments are made to supplement the previous arguments made in favor of the patentability of the invention.

The thrust of the arguments made herein focuses on the fact that the threaded joint defines both a lubricating coating layer and a metallic undercoating layer thereon, and it is this combination which is distinguishable over the applied prior art.

In the rejection, the Examiner relies on Kawashima to teach the use of a lubricant in combination with a porous layer. While this is true, the subtlety of Kawashima is that the effect of the porous layer is to retain the lubricant in its porous portions. Put another way, the lubricant impregnates the porous portion. The Examiner's attention is directed to col. 3, lines 28-29, col. 4, lines 39-43, col. 4, lines 45-47, and col. 6, lines 18-20, wherein the teachings of Kawashima in this regard can be found.

In direct contrast to Kawashima, the present invention uses the porous metallic